

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 423

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN JACK WELLS**, on April 10, 2001 at
8:30 A.M., in Room 350 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Jack Wells, Chairman (R)
Rep. Joan Andersen, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Hal Jacobson (D)
Rep. Ken Peterson (R)
Sen. Don Ryan (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Alvin Ellis Jr. (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Mary Gay Wells, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Executive Action: SB 423 Amended

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0}

HEARING ON SB 423

CHAIRMAN JACK WELLS opened the hearing. He began the meeting without **Eddy McClure, Legislative Staffer**. When SB 423 left the Senate, there was an area of concern. The discussion was on how many people need to sign a petition. The Senate set that number at 10% of the electorate. In the House, it was amended to 15% of the electorate. Since **SEN. ALVIN ELLIS** was unable to attend the meeting, he explained **SEN. ELLIS'** viewpoint. He wanted to return the number of electors to 10%. There are only a couple of places in law where 15% of the electors are needed on a petition and those are in cases where people are trying to overturn issues that have been passed by the legislature, etc. The 10% is the generally accepted number.

Comments and Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SEN. DON RYAN felt the third amendment by the House was fine. He stated that 10% of the electorate would still be a very high standard. School elections do not get a good turnout like general elections.

REP. KEN PETERSON explained that he was somewhat responsible for the 15% amendment. People in Billings had wanted 10%. **REP. BOB LAWSON** had a problem with that and wanted the 15%. The House committee voted a 9-9 tie so the bill was essentially dead. He had brought the bill up for reconsideration. It then passed with the 15%. He was in favor of 10% himself and thought that **REP. LAWSON** had changed his mind and would go for the 10%.

SEN. RYAN explained that in order to establish a single-member school district, 10% of the voters would be needed and in Billings that is a high, high mark. The districts have not been established yet, so that means you would have to cover the whole Billings district.

REP. HAL JACOBSON stated the amendments were basically crafted by **REP. PETERSON** and himself. Amendments one and two were not an issue with him and he would support the 10% change. The third amendment was important.

REP. JOAN ANDERSEN agreed with the 10% in the beginning. She had spoken with **SEN. ELLIS** and he had not even mentioned the third amendment. She felt he was comfortable with it.

Motion/Vote: **REP. ANDERSEN** moved that **SB 423 BE AMENDED**

EXHIBIT(ccs81sb0423a01). Motion carried 5-0.

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ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 9:00 A.M.

SEN. JACK WELLS, Chairman

MARY GAY WELLS, Secretary

JW/MGW

EXHIBIT (ccs81sb0423aad)